

(b) All these appointments were made to fill up the existing vacancies. If top management posts are reduced on grounds of losses, there will be dearth of management which could plan for converting losses into profits.

[English]

Price Control

5972. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue guidelines to public as well as private sector organisations to roll back the prices of their products to the level available in July, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) and (b). The Government is determined to bring inflation under control through the process of economic reforms, regulated growth of money supply and credit and supply management by ensuring near normal availability of essential goods in the country. Rolling back of the prices of certain items to July, 1990 levels immediately is difficult in view of the current economic situation. However, in order to provide relief to the common man, excise duties on items of common use have been fully waived or substantially lowered. These commodities have also been spared from the railway freight increases. Cooperation of public as well as private sector organisations in bringing down prices has always been sought by the Government with a view to rolling back prices to the intended levels.

Mothballing of Equipments

5973. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI KAMLA MISHRA
MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether equipment's with the Army are likely to be moth balled;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the category of equipment proposed to be moth balled; and

(d) the countries providing assistance in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d). Mothballing is a method adopted to store high value equipment. This protects such equipment from corrosion/damage/wear and tear and from all deterioration due to the action of the elements. Thus, Mothballing enhances the life of equipment and reduces the cost of maintenance and storage without any detriment to operational readiness.

This method is used for preservation of equipment, such as tanks, infantry combat vehicles, artillery guns, radars and expensive electronic equipment.

Mothballing of equipment is proposed to be carried indigenously.

Lal Bahadur Shastri Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay

5974. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the Lal Bahadur Shastri Nautical and Engineering College, Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cargo Facilities for Exports from Bangalore

5975. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of requests have been made by the Government of Karnataka to the Union Government to provide adequate cargo facilities for exporting fruits, vegetables and flowers from Bangalore to Arab countries and East European countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The Ministry of Commerce has not received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for providing cargo facilities for export of fruits, vegetables and flowers at Bangalore.

However, suitable facilities could be provided at the Bangalore Air Cargo Complex, which is run by the Government of Karnataka, for export of perishables.

Cardamom Crop Disease

5976. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cardamom crop in Sikkim which plays an important role in foreign exchange earnings and economic well being of the people, has been suffering due to various diseases which is bringing down its production; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Spices Board has taken necessary measures for disease management. These include:-

1. Extension Advisory Scheme, to educate growers on scientific pest and disease management;
2. Cardamom replanting scheme to educate farmers of replantation of diseased and old plants;
3. Maintaining demonstration plots to popularise scientific pest and disease management and cultural operation;
4. Supply of plant protection equipments, like sprayers and dusters, to farmers at 75% subsidy; and
5. Helping the farmers to construct "during houses" to improve the quality of the produce.

Opening of Bank Branches

5977. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.